

ISAC Meeting – May 2012

ACTION OR INFORMATION ITEM

SPONSOR (Name/Email): Peter Alpert / palpert@bio.umass.edu

TOPIC: Research informing management of invasive estuarine species in the Pacific Northwest

SPEAKER (Name/Email): Dr. Catherine de Rivera / derivera@pdx.edu

1. DESCRIPTION OF AGENDA ITEM:

International commerce has introduced many invasive invertebrates to the estuaries of the Pacific Northwest. Local researchers have studied the biology of these species to help managers rank them as threats to fisheries and mariculture and implement strategies to reduce the impacts of those species that pose a significant threat. Dr. Rivera, a marine ecologist at Portland State University, will present three contrasting, current examples from her own work and the research of colleagues. Together, these examples illustrate how a community of scientists in a region can direct research towards a multi-faceted problem in the management of invasive species.

2. WHY IS THIS ITEM IMPORTANT TO NISC / ISAC? HOW IS IT RELATED TO THE NATIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PLAN?

Estuaries are one of the most productive types of habitats in the U.S. and also one of the habitats most subject to accidental introductions of species. Helping direct research to management of estuarine invasives is an important function of ISAC on behalf of NISC. In addition, this item is very relevant to the theme of the 2012 field meeting of ISAC, invasive species in the Pacific Northwest, and serves two strategic goals of the National Invasive Species Management Plan: Strategic Goal 3: Contain and reduce the spread and populations of established invasive species to minimize their harmful impacts; and Strategic Goal 4: Restore native species and habitat conditions and rehabilitate high-value ecosystems and key ecological processes that have been impacted by invasive species to meet desired future conditions. Even more generally, bridging the gap between basic scientific research and practical management of invasive species is a very important function that ISAC, with its complements of scientists and managers, should be in a particularly strong position to enable.

3. PREVIOUS ACTIONS TAKEN BY NISC / ISAC ON THIS ITEM:

None identified.

4. ACTION REQUESTED OF NISC / ISAC:

Possible future recommendations.

5. ALTERNATIVES:

None.

6. ATTACHMENTS:

None.